

Al Hor Bel Ghamza

A play mounted by the troupe Theater Aquarium

Karima Lahlou, a young prosecutor arrives for the first time at her office. She finds herself assistant sitting at her desk, going through file. His name is “Madhoune” (meaning greasy) and since he does not realize at first who she is, he treats her insolently. When it becomes clear that she is his new boss, his manner changes completely.

As Karima goes through some of the old, unresolved cases in the files, it becomes gradually clear that this office has been involved in many curious affairs. For example, she discovers in one that Birgitte Bardot’s cat was kidnapped, and sold as rabbit meat by a neighbor butcher. Not only did the client get food poisoning, but she had problems with the justice system. The butcher, however, seem to have known exactly what to do to avoid being brought to trial!

In the second case, a woman goes to the prefecture in order to start the procedure to get a passport to go to MECA. The clerk \, to his big surprise, discovers that this woman “administratively passed away” years ago. The deceased’s death certificates was forged to enable her son-in-law to claim inheritance.

In the third case, a lowly civil savant had many financial problems. What’s the harm if he certifies a document that clearly he shouldn’t, as long as he needs the money?

The last scene tells the story of Hayat, the daughter of a very poor woman. Hayat has been bitten by a scorpion, and needs urgent care, her mother has to face many obstacles before she can find an ambulance to go the hospital. In each case—from the hospital staff to the president of the municipality to even the ambulance driver—the obstacles seem to respond to monetary persuasion. Is it a matter of too little too late?

But there is a moral to the story: we should never abandon our efforts to fight corruption. If we all pull together, our generation can overcome this scourge on our society.

By Theatre Aquarium